

Basileus Special Act Awards: Brother Tony Bullock, Brother David Holliday, Brother Robert Reese, Jr., Brother Cozy Bailey, Sr., Brother Leonard Newman III, Brother Adrian Gore, Brother Jimmie Jacobs, Jr., Brother Harvey L. Woodson, Jr., Brother Trevor Hamilton, Brother Bernard Oliphant, Brother Anthony Burgess, Brother Byron Cherry, Sr., Brother Vernon Campbell, Brother Andrew McCall II, Brother Albert Woods, Brother Earl Clark, Brother Erik Noel, Brother Gregory Reid, Brother Lloyd Marshall, Brother Arthur Sobers, Jr., Brother David Ballard, Brother Joseph Boutte, Brother DeSean Davis, Brother Drefus Lane, Sr., Brother Vincent Gordon, Brother William Vaughn, Jr., Brother Joseph Boutte, Brother Derrick Harris, Sr., Brother Conrado Morgan, Brother Rowland Webb, Sr., Brother Stephen Blakely, Brother Crispin Abad, Brother Gregory Reid, Brother Johnny Ledbetter, Brother Matthew Mitchell, Brother Thomas Victor Montgomery III, Brother Jeffrey Allen, Brother Victor Hinton, Brother Robert Melvin, Brother Iven King, Jr., Brother Tyrone Simon, Brother Kenneth West, Brother Simon King, Brother Randall Webb, Brother Lewis Forrest I, Brother Byron Cherry, Sr., Brother Lee Bennett, Jr., Brother Elijah Jackson III.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in conveying our appreciation for eight years of civic service by the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. It is civic groups like the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter that define the character of our communities and give measure to our generosity of spirit.

# CORRECTING AND IMPROVING THE LEAHY-SMITH AMERICA INVENTS ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. HOWARD COBLE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Sunday, December 30, 2012*

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act, or "AIA," which was signed into law on September 16, 2011, is the most substantial reform of U.S. patent law since the 1836 Patent Act. The AIA re-establishes the United States patent system as the global standard. The bill that we discuss today, H.R. 6621, makes necessary technical corrections to the AIA to ensure that the bill realizes its full potential to promote innovation and create jobs.

The AIA represented the culmination of nearly a decade of work by Members, key staff, and officials from both the Bush and Obama Administrations. The bill helps to bring our patent system into the 21st century and sets our nation's innovation infrastructure on the right path for decades to come.

At the center of our successful efforts to enact the AIA and this technical corrections measure over the last decade has been Blaine Merritt, the Chief Counsel of the Committee on the Judiciary's Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, Competition and the Internet.

Blaine has been a constant and tireless public servant, who has served the American people with quiet distinction and professionalism for nearly three decades. On the occasion of his retirement from the U.S. House of Representatives, I want to note a few of his

many contributions to our work and to the betterment of the American people.

A native of Greensboro, North Carolina, Blaine's congressional career began in 1985 in our office where he began his public service as a Legislative Assistant. In 1988, he was promoted to Legislative Director, a position he served in until he was called to serve on the professional staff of the Committee on the Judiciary in 1997.

Once on the Committee, Blaine was appointed Chief Counsel to the subcommittee with oversight over our intellectual property laws and courts related issues in 2000. In that capacity, Blaine served three successive Republican Chairmen—Representatives Henry Hyde, JIM SENSENBRENNER and LAMAR SMITH.

During his service on the Judiciary Committee, Blaine established himself and became recognized as one of our nation's foremost authorities on the law of patents, copyrights and trademarks as well as an expert on all matters that relate to the Federal judiciary and congressional procedure.

Blaine's contributions to landmark legislation are innumerable. Counted among the bills he helped to steer to enactment are the American Inventor's Protection Act (AIPA), the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA) and the aforementioned Leahy-Smith AIA of 2011.

Mr. Speaker, I've been blessed to represent the good citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, from where Blaine hails, since 1985. Throughout my tenure, I and countless other Members of the "People's House" have benefited from his sound counsel, seasoned judgment and quiet leadership.

As Blaine embarks upon the next phase of his career, I hope he takes a little time to relax and watch his beloved "Blue Devils" basketball team that is undefeated and ranked number one in the Nation. I thank my friend for his invaluable service and wish him "Fair Winds and Following Seas" always.

# RECOGNIZING LYLE W. MINTER AND HIS 36 YEARS OF FEDERAL SERVICE

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 2, 2013*

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and pay tribute to Lyle W. Minter, of Fairfax, Virginia, on the occasion of his retirement after 36 years of Federal service. Mr. Minter's professional achievements are numerous, and I know he would be the first to acknowledge that none of them would have been possible without the support of his wife, Nancy.

Lyle graduated in 1975 from the University of Virginia with a B.A. in History. While at the University of Virginia, Lyle was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He received his Master of Library Science in 1976 from the University of Maryland. While at the University of Maryland, Lyle was elected to Beta Phi Mu.

Lyle began his distinguished Federal career as a civilian employee with the Department of the Army. He worked as the librarian at two Army posts in Virginia before being reassigned to the Pentagon Library as a reference librarian. He later was selected as head of the Reference Section and managed research sup-

port, general reference, and online database searching for the Pentagon Library's 50,000 patrons.

Lyle came to the Library of Congress in 1991 as Head of the Government Publications and Periodicals Section in the Serial and Government Publications Division. In that position he managed the automation of the serial binding preparation process and was instrumental in implementing a number of other enhancements and services, which enabled increased access to the Library of Congress collections for Members of Congress and the research community who utilize that institution and its vast collections. Lyle then was reassigned as Head of the Newspaper and Current Periodical Division, where he managed the Library's busiest public service point and implemented such innovations as virtual reference and online collection guides. Lyle came to the Congressional Research Service in 2005 as a Supervisory Information Research Specialist in the Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division where he manages a team of employees who respond to requests from the United States Congress. He has remained in that position until the time of his retirement.

Throughout his career, Lyle has been actively engaged in the professional librarian community as a member of the Special Libraries Association (SLA), and he has received several awards for his service. He was elected a Fellow of SLA in 2004 and received the Gale Cengage Learning Murray Wortzel Award in recognition of Excellence in Social Science Librarianship in 2011. Lyle particularly enjoys teaching and mentoring information professionals, and his dedication to mentoring librarians and others in the field of librarianship has been a benchmark of his career.

As Lyle begins the next chapter of his life, he intends to spend time with friends and family, teach, travel, and continue volunteering in his community and in his profession. Lyle Minter has excelled throughout his distinguished Federal career, and I am honored to pay tribute to this conscientious and dedicated public servant.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Lyle Minter for his many years of dedicated Federal service. I wish Lyle and his wife, Nancy, continued happiness as they enter this next phase of their lives.

# AMERICAN TAXPAYER RELIEF ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 1, 2013*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, recently the Senate came together on a bipartisan basis to address our looming fiscal crisis. I appreciate the statesmanship of President Obama and Vice President Biden to make every effort to avoid the most harmful effects of the "fiscal cliff."

Last night's vote in the House was one of the hardest votes I have cast in my tenure in Congress. The agreement was not a perfect proposal, but it avoided serious damage to our national economy. One of my concerns about the measure is that it did not generate nearly enough revenue. I am afraid that the haste